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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/056,524	01/23/2002	Thomas Hofmann	3818.01-1	4336

7590

02/25/2003

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EXAMINER

DEWITTY, ROBERT M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1616

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/056,524

Applicant(s)

HOFMANN, THOMAS

Examiner

Robert M DeWitty

Art Unit

1616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-36 are pending in the instant application. Acknowledgement is made of Applicant's amendment submitted 7/29/02.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

1. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meyer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,958,902).

Meyer teaches the application of a lung surfactant to the posterior pharyngeal region prior to sleep to reduce episodes of sleep disturbance resulting in apnea. The lung surfactant is provided in a convenient applicator container and can be any commercially available surfactant such as Exosurf®. Exosurf contains phospholipids and tyloxapol (col. 4, lines 50-54). Meyer teaches that U.S. Pat. No. 4,826,821, incorporated by reference, teaches using synthetic surfactant compositions containing tyloxapol. U.S. Pat. No. 4,826,421 teaches that surface active agents such as tyloxapol can be present in the compositions from 6-11% (**821 patent, col. 6, lines 56-65). Meyer further teaches that the pharmacologically effective dose can range from 0.25 to 2.75 mg in 0.75 to 1.25 mg (col. 3, lines 32-37).

During application of the invention of Meyer, a pressurized aerosol can, a squeeze bottle, or a pump bottle may be used. The surfactant will typically be applied through the oral cavity, but it may be delivered nasally when the subject is supine

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 8/21/02 has been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that the prior art (above), while possessing tyloxapol, do not really need tyloxapol, and therefore amending transitional language of the claim to "consisting essentially of" overcomes teachings of the prior art.

As stated in the MPEP, the transitional phrase "consisting essentially of" limits the scope of a claim to specific materials and steps "...that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristics" of the claimed invention (MPEP 2111.03). However, for search and examination purposes, absent a clear indication in the specification of what the basic and novel characteristics actually are "consisting essentially of" will be construed as equivalent to "comprising". (Id.).

In the instant specification, it is not clear what are the basic and novel characteristics of tyloxapol. Thus, one cannot differentiate between the instant invention and the product Exosurf® as used in the prior art. It is the examiner's position that "consisting essentially of" be construed as "comprising", and therefore the rejection is maintained.

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3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

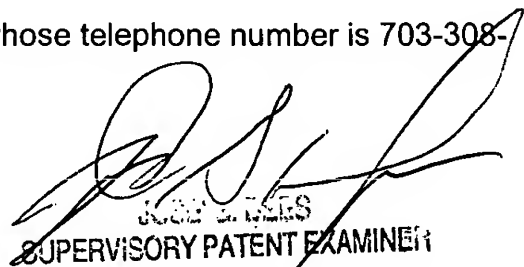
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action: In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M DeWitty whose telephone number is 703-308-2411. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jose Dees can be reached on 703-308-4527. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7924 for regular communications and 703-308-7924 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

RMD
February 20, 2003


JOSE DEES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1616